AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application:

The Claims:

1. (**Currently Amended**) A method, comprising:

receiving at a broker a usage policy for constraints related to data of a user in a communication system, wherein said usage policy defines ~~at least one~~ a strictness level ~~parameter~~ value ~~for at least one attribute in~~ associated with the usage policy, where a strictness level value is a value assigned to a collection of privacy attributes;

receiving a request for data associated with the user from a service provider in the communication system to the broker, wherein the service provider possesses a privacy policy and wherein said request comprises ~~at least one~~ a strictness level ~~parameter~~ value ~~for at least one attribute in the privacy policy~~ associated with the privacy policy of the service provider;

checking, in the broker, the request against a usage policy of the user by comparing the strictness level ~~parameter values~~ value associated with ~~attributes in~~ the usage policy to ~~corresponding~~ the strictness level ~~parameter values~~ value ~~associated with corresponding attributes~~ in the ~~privacy policy~~ received request and associated with the privacy policy of the service provider; and

sending a response to the service provider indicating whether the data can be released, based on the comparison of the strictness level ~~parameter~~ values ~~associated with attributes in the usage policy to corresponding strictness level parameter values associated with corresponding attributes the privacy policy~~.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the usage policy is defined by the user.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising: providing the broker with a predefined set of privacy policies and usage policies.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 3, wherein the providing comprises providing the privacy policies and the usage policies comprising similar attributes with defined strictness level ~~parameter~~ values.

5-6. (Canceled).

7. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, further comprising: releasing user data when ~~each of~~ said ~~at least one~~ strictness level ~~parameter~~ value ~~for the at least one attribute of~~ associated with the privacy policy is less than or equal to the ~~corresponding defined~~ strictness level ~~parameter~~ value ~~of the corresponding attribute~~ in the received ~~usage policy~~ request.

8. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, further comprising: indicating, in the response by the broker, a strictness level ~~parameter~~ value ~~of an attribute of~~ associated with the usage policy to the service provider when the ~~corresponding~~ strictness level ~~parameter~~ value ~~of the corresponding attribute of~~ associated with the privacy policy ~~of the service provider~~ is greater than the ~~indicated~~ strictness level ~~parameter~~ value ~~of the attribute in~~ associated with the usage policy.

9. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, further comprising: allowing the user to reduce ~~a~~ the strictness level ~~parameter~~ value ~~of an attribute in~~ associated with the usage policy when the ~~corresponding~~ strictness level ~~parameter~~ value ~~of the corresponding attribute~~ ~~of~~ associated with the privacy policy ~~of the service provider~~ is greater than the strictness level ~~parameter~~ value ~~of the attribute in~~ associated with the usage policy ~~to be reduced~~.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising: attaching an electronically signed usage policy to the data when the data is released.

11. **(Currently Amended)** A system, comprising:
a service provider possessing a privacy policy; and
a broker hosting a usage policy for constraints related to data of a user, wherein said usage policy defines ~~at least one~~ a strictness level ~~parameter~~ value ~~for at least one attribute in~~

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associated with the usage policy, where a strictness level value is a value assigned to a collection of privacy attributes,

wherein the broker is configured to check a request from the service provider against the usage policy of the user by comparing the strictness level ~~parameter values~~ value associated with ~~attributes in~~ the usage policy to a ~~corresponding~~ strictness level ~~parameter values~~ value associated with ~~corresponding attributes in~~ the privacy policy of the service provider, wherein said request comprises ~~at least one~~ the strictness level ~~parameter~~ value ~~for at least one attribute in the privacy policy~~ associated with the privacy policy of the service provider, and

the broker is configured to send a response to the service provider indicating whether data associated with the user can be released in response to the request based on the comparison of the strictness level ~~parameter~~ values ~~associated with attributes in the usage policy to corresponding strictness level parameter values associated with corresponding attributes the privacy policy~~.

12. (**Currently Amended**) A system, comprising:

introducing means for introducing to a broker a usage policy for constraints related to data of a user, wherein said usage policy defines ~~at least one~~ a strictness level ~~parameter~~ value ~~for at least one attribute in~~ associated with the usage policy, where a strictness level value is a value assigned to a collection of privacy attributes;

receiving means for receiving a request for data associated with the user from a service provider to the broker, wherein the service provider possesses a privacy policy and wherein said request comprises at least one strictness level ~~parameter~~ value ~~for at least one attribute in~~ associated with the privacy policy;

checking means for checking, in the broker, the request against a usage policy of the user by comparing the strictness level ~~parameter values~~ value associated with ~~attributes in~~ the usage policy to the ~~corresponding~~ strictness level ~~parameter values~~ value in the received request and associated with ~~corresponding attributes in~~ the privacy policy of the service provider; and

sending means for sending a response to the service provider indicating whether the data can be released, based on the comparison of the strictness level parameter values ~~associated~~

~~with attributes in the usage policy to corresponding strictness level parameter values associated with corresponding attributes the privacy policy~~.

13. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus, comprising:

at least one memory including computer code,

at least one processor,

wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code are configured to, with the at least one processor, cause the apparatus at least to

receive a request for data associated with a user from a service provider, wherein the service provider possesses a privacy policy and wherein said request comprises ~~at least one~~ a strictness level parameter value ~~for at least one attribute in~~ associated with the privacy policy, where a strictness level value is a value assigned to a collection of privacy attributes;

check the request against a usage policy of the user by comparing the strictness level ~~parameter values~~ value ~~associated with attributes in~~ associated with the usage policy to a ~~corresponding~~ strictness level ~~parameter values~~ value in the received request and associated with ~~corresponding attributes in~~ the privacy policy of the service provider, wherein said usage policy defines ~~at least one~~ a strictness level ~~parameter~~ value ~~for at least one attribute in the usage policy~~ associated with the privacy policy of the service provider; and

send a response to the service provider indicating whether the data can be released, based on the comparison of the strictness level parameter values ~~associated with attributes in the usage policy to corresponding strictness level parameter values associated with corresponding attributes the privacy policy~~.

14. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code are further configured to, with the at least one processor, cause the apparatus at least to release user data when ~~each of~~ said ~~at least one~~ strictness level ~~parameter~~ value ~~for the at least one attribute~~ associated with the privacy policy is less than or equal to the ~~corresponding defined~~ strictness level ~~parameter~~ value ~~of the corresponding attribute in~~ associated with the received usage policy.

15. (**Currently Amended**) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code are further configured to, with the at least one processor, cause the apparatus at least to indicate, in the response, a strictness level ~~parameter~~ value ~~of an attribute~~ of the usage policy to the service provider when the ~~corresponding~~ strictness level ~~parameter~~ value ~~of the corresponding attribute of~~ associated with the privacy policy ~~of the service provider~~ is greater than the ~~indicated~~ strictness level ~~parameter~~ value ~~of the attribute in~~ associated with the usage policy.

16. (**Currently Amended**) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code are further configured to, with the at least one processor, cause the apparatus at least to allow the user to reduce ~~a~~ the strictness level ~~parameter~~ value ~~of an attribute in~~ associated with the usage policy when the ~~corresponding~~ strictness level ~~parameter~~ value ~~of the corresponding attribute of~~ associated with the privacy policy of the service provider is greater than the strictness level ~~parameter~~ value ~~of the attribute in~~ associated with the usage policy ~~to be reduced~~.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the at least one memory and the computer program code are further configured to, with the at least one processor, cause the apparatus at least to attach an electronically signed usage policy to the data when the data is released.

18. (**Currently Amended**) An apparatus, comprising:

receiving means for receiving a request for data associated with a user from a service provider, wherein the service provider possesses a privacy policy and wherein said request comprises ~~at least one~~ a strictness level ~~parameter~~ value ~~for at least one attribute in the privacy policy~~ associated with the privacy policy of the service provider, where a strictness level value is a value assigned to a collection of privacy attributes;

checking means for checking the request against a usage policy of the user by comparing a strictness level ~~parameter values~~ value associated with ~~attributes in~~ the usage policy to the ~~corresponding~~ strictness level ~~parameter values~~ value associated with ~~corresponding~~

~~attributes in~~ the privacy policy, wherein said usage policy defines ~~at least one~~ a strictness level ~~parameter~~ value ~~for at least one attribute in~~ associated with the usage policy; and

sending means for sending a response to the service provider indicating whether the data can be released, based on the comparison of the strictness level parameter values ~~associated with attributes in the usage policy to corresponding strictness level parameter values associated with corresponding attributes the privacy policy~~.

19. **(Currently Amended)** A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable components, the components configured to:

receive a usage policy for constraints related to data of a user in a communication system, wherein said usage policy defines ~~at least one~~ a strictness level ~~parameter~~ value ~~for at least one attribute in~~ associated with the usage policy, where a strictness level value is a value assigned to a collection of privacy attributes;

receive a request for data associated with the user from a service provider in the communication system, wherein the service provider possesses a privacy policy and wherein said request comprises ~~at least one~~ a strictness level ~~parameter~~ value ~~for at least one attribute in~~ associated with the privacy policy;

check the request against a usage policy of the user by comparing the strictness level ~~parameter values~~ value ~~associated with attributes~~ in the usage policy to the ~~corresponding~~ strictness level ~~parameter values~~ value in the received request and associated with ~~corresponding attributes in~~ the privacy policy of the service provider; and

send a response to the service provider indicating whether the data can be released, based on the comparison of the strictness level parameter values ~~associated with attributes in the usage policy to corresponding strictness level parameter values associated with corresponding attributes the privacy policy~~.

20. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 19, wherein the usage policy is defined by the user.

21. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 19, wherein the components are configured to: receive a predefined set of privacy policies and usage policies.

22. **(Currently Amended)** The medium of claim 21, wherein receiving the predefined set comprises receiving the privacy policies and the usage policies comprising ~~similar attributes with~~ defined strictness level ~~parameter~~ values.

23-24. (Canceled).

25. **(Currently Amended)** The medium of claim 19, wherein the components are configured to: release user data when ~~each of~~ said ~~at least one~~ strictness level ~~parameter~~ value ~~for the at least one attribute of~~ associated with the privacy policy is less than or equal to the ~~corresponding defined~~ strictness level ~~parameter~~ value ~~of the corresponding attribute in~~ associated with the ~~received~~ usage policy.

26. **(Currently Amended)** The medium of claim 19, wherein the components are configured to:

indicate, in the response, a strictness level ~~parameter~~ value ~~of an attribute of the usage policy~~ to the service provider when the ~~corresponding~~ strictness level ~~parameter~~ value ~~of the corresponding attribute of~~ associated with the privacy policy of the service provider is greater than the indicated strictness level ~~parameter~~ value ~~of the attribute in~~ associated with the usage policy.

27. **(Currently Amended)** The medium of claim 19, wherein the components are configured to: allow the user to reduce ~~a~~ the strictness level ~~parameter~~ value ~~of an attribute in~~ associated with the usage policy when the ~~corresponding~~ strictness level parameter value ~~of the corresponding attribute of~~ associated with the privacy policy of the service provider is greater than the strictness level ~~parameter~~ value ~~of the attribute~~ in the usage policy ~~to be reduced~~.

28. (Previously Presented) The medium of claim 19, wherein the components are configured to: attach an electronically signed usage policy to the data when the data is released.

29. **(New)** The method of claim 1, where a strictness level value is defined at least in part as comprising:

a "purpose" attribute describing a purposes of data collection or uses of data;

a "retention" attribute indicating a retention policy; and

an "access" attribute indicating whether the service provider provides access to collected data.

30. **(New)** The method of claim 1, where a strictness level value associated with the usage policy is "privacy strict", where "privacy strict" is defined at least in part as: the "purpose" attribute being assigned a value of "current"; the "retention" attribute being assigned a value of "no retention"; and the "access" attribute being assigned a value of "nonident".